

Russell L. Schweikart Encyclopedia Article

Russell L. Schweikart

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Russell L. Schweikart

1935-

American astronaut who contributed to the knowledge of space adaptation syndrome. Schweikart graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1969 he flew on *Apollo 9* to perform a two-hour spacewalk to test the lunar spacesuit. Because he became dizzy, Schweikart shortened his spacewalk to half an hour, which was sufficient to assess the spacesuit's capabilities. For *Skylab* preparations, he served as a medical subject for doctors studying how space affected astronauts. Schweikart later founded the Association of Space Explorers.